

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí Cork County Council

Halla an Chontae,
Corcaigh, Éire.

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Mr Dominic Mullaney,
Principal Adviser (Roads)
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
Transport House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2

21st September 2015

Dear Mr. Mullaney,

Cork County Council received an Orange Level Weather Warning on Thursday 10th September advising of *"Heavy incessant falls of rain occurring overnight Thursday and on Friday. Significant totals, leading to spot flooding and treacherous driving conditions. 45 to 75mm possible, highest totals for higher ground. Valid from 00:02 Friday 11-September-2015 until 23:59 Friday 11-September-2015"*. The warning was assessed by the Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team and the appropriate precautions were undertaken.

The predicted rainfall occurred across the County but was particularly severe and much heavier than predicted in the south western part of the County with a total of 130.7 mm of rain being recorded in the Goleen Area between 9.30 am on 10th September and 9.30 am on 12th September.

Many roads were blocked by flood waters, debris and subsidence which required an immediate response from early on Friday morning through to Saturday. As a result of the torrential rain significant damage was caused to the road network, principally in the South and West of the County and particularly to roads on the Mizen and Sheep's Head peninsulas.

Significant Council resources have been deployed since the event including manpower assignment, overtime, plant hire and contractors in making roads passable and in securing roads & bridges which are impassable. Structural damage has been identified to date to a number of roads and bridges. There are still a number of roads impassable and two bridges have collapsed.

The initial estimated cost on Regional & Local Roads is €2,341,165 as detailed overleaf:

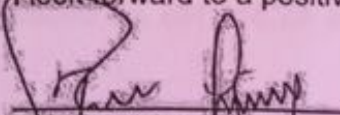
Municipal District Engineer's Area	Engineering Sub Area	Response & Clean Up	Urgent Repairs Required	Essential, less Urgent Repairs Required	Total
Ballincollig Carrigaline MD		3,110			3,110
Bandon Kinsale MD		25,000	13,500		38,500
Blarney Macroom MD		6,500	45,500		52,000
Cobh MD		1,500			1,500
Kanturk Mallow MD	Millstreet	2,000			2,000
West Cork MD (Bantry)	Bantry	77,555	694,000	120,000	891,555
	Castletownbere	27,800	265,000	25,000	317,800
	Schull	25,500	573,500	20,000	619,000
	Total	130,855	1,532,500	165,000	1,828,355
West Cork MD (Skibbereen)	Clonakilty	4,500	29,500	62,500	96,500
	Dunmanway	4,000	76,000	0	80,000
	Skibbereen	12,700	186,500	40,000	239,200
	Total	21,200	292,000	102,500	415,700
Totals		190,165	1,883,500	267,500	2,341,165

As you are aware, the Cork County Council's ability to fund responses and repair roads, following events such as this, has been severely affected by the budgetary controls and reductions in expenditure which it has been obliged to put in place over the past seven years. Due to the fact that the Restoration Maintenance & Improvement and the Bridge Rehabilitation Programmes for 2015 are either completed or contractually committed across the County, at this stage of the year, there is no potential for reallocation of funding from the 2015 Exchequer Allocations for Regional & Local Roads.

Accordingly I request funding from your Department, in order to respond to these exceptional events.

The Director of Services and Senior Engineers Road Operations can provide details and photographs of the extensive damage and are available to deal with any queries which you may have on this request

I look forward to a positive response.


TIM LUCEY,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE